ARTICLES

to be inquired of

Within the Dioceſſe of Cheſter, in the ordinary Viſitation of the reuerend Father *in God, George, Lord Biſhop of Cheſter,* anno Domini 1605. and in the yeere of the *raigne of our ſouereigne Lord,* Iames, *by the* grace of God, of great Brittayne, France *and Ireland, King, Defender of* the fayth, &c.

Viz.

Of great Brittayne, Fraunce and Ireland, the *third, and of Scotland the eight and thirtieth.*

Imprinted at London by Simon Stafford, dwelling in Hoſier lane, neere Smithfield.

1605.

STC. 10176

The tenor of the Oth, miniſtred to all and euery the Church-wardens and ſworne men.

YOV, and euery of you ſhall ſweare by almighty God, that all affection ſet aſide, you ſhall, vpon due conſideration of theſe Articles giuen you in charge, preſent all and euery ſuch perſon, of, or within your pariſh, as haue cõmitted any offence, or made any default mentioned in the ſame Articles, or which are vehemently ſuſpected or otherwiſe defamed of any ſuch offence, fault, or default, and make a true anſwere to all and euery the ſubſequent Articles, wherein you and euery of you ſhall deale vprightly, as before God: ſo helpe you God, and his faithfull promiſes contayned in this his holy booke.

Articles to be inquired of in the Dioces of Chester, in the ordinary Visitation holden Anno Domini, 1605.

TITVL. I.

Articles concerning Religion, Prayer and Sacraments.

FIrſt, whether there be any abiding in, or reſorting to your pariſh, that be knowne to haue defended or maintayned, ſince the twentieth day of March, 1602. any heretical opinions, contrary to the holy ſcriptures of God, & firſt foure generall Councels, wherin the ſame was declared Pereſy, by the expreſſe words of the ſayd Canonicall ſcriptures, and what bee thoſe opinions, and who be the authours, publiſhers, or maintayners thereof? Heretical opinions.

2 Item, whether there be any perſon or perſons, that wilfully and obſtinatly refuſe to repayre to his pariſh church, chappell, or oratory vpon Sabboth dayes and holy dayes, and there to abide orderly and ſoberly to heare diuine ſeruice & Sermon, or haue not bin preſent at the ſame, or negligent in comming to ỳ ſame, ſince the time before expreſſed? declare their names and degrées, and their owelling places; and for how long time they haue ſo abſented themſelues from church, or bene negligent therein. Abſence from Church.

3 Item, whether doth any perſon within your pariſh depraue the forme of Common prayer and adminiſtration of the Sacraments, rites and ceremonies ſet forth and preſcribed in the booke of Common prayer of this Realme, by the Kings Maiеſty authorized and confirmed, or preach, declare, or ſpeak any thing in the derogation of the ſayd prayer and ſacraments, or any part thereof? Derogation of Prayer & Sacraments.

4 Item, doe any perſons of conuenient yeres refuſe or forbeare to communicate thrice euery yere at the leaſt, & at Eaſter eſpecially, or deferre the baptizing of their children any longer time, then vntil the next Sabboth or holyday, after the birth of the ſayd childe, vnleſſe hee or they doe firſt acquaint the Miniſter of the place what cauſe there may be ſo to doe? Not communicating three times in a yeere.

5 Item, what reuerence doe the people within your pariſh outwardly vſe by the geſture of their bodies, when they be preſent at common prayers, and the adminiſtration of the ſacrament of the Lords Supper, and whether they do all reuerently kneele? and declare the names of ſuch as behaue themſelues irreuerently, and doe not kneele thereat. Outward behauiour at praiers & ſacraments

Children dying, not baptized.

6 Item, whether hath any childzen dyed within your parish vnbaptized, and by whose default was not that Sacrament administred vnto them: or did your Minister refuse or neglect to bury the dead vpon lawfull warning?

TITVL. II.

Articles concerning Ministers, and Preachers of Gods word.

Obseruation of the forme of Common prayer and ceremonies

7 Item, whether doth the Minister read the Common prayer according to the forme, & after such sort, as is set forth in the booke of Common prayer, confirmed by his Maiesties authority, and administer the Sacraments with due obseruation of all rites, and ceremonies prescribed in the sayd booke to be vsed at and in the administration thereof, without adding, altering, or omitting any part or parcell of the sayd prayer, or innouating any other matter in the administration of the Sacraments? and whether he doeth in the execution of his ministery, publikely vse such ornaments, as be by lawfull authority is appointed in that behalfe? and if your Parson, Vicar or Curate be a Graduate, whether he doth weare a Hood, according to his degree vpon his surplesse, in the time of diuine seruice and administration of the Sacraments.

Diligẽce in his function.

8 Item, whether is he diligent and carefull faithfully to execute his pastorall office and function, by reading and expounding of the holy scriptures, if he be thereunto licensed, or elis by reading of Homilies? and whether doth he catechize the youth of his parish euery Sabboth day and holy day, one halfe houre before Euensong, in the Catechisme by his Maiesty confirmed?

Strange preachers

9 Item, whether any strange Preachers, other then your owne Parson, Vicar, Curate, or Stipendary, hath at any time since Michaelmas last preached in your church or chappell, and what be the names of such strange Preachers, and by whom were they allowed or licensed to preach? and whether the Church-wardens of your parish haue a booke to note the names of such strange Preachers? and whether their names be entred in the same booke according to the last Canons? or whether the Church-wardens doe or did suffer any such stranger to preach, before he had shewed his Licence?

Debarring from the Communion without cause.

10 Item, whether doeth the Minister repell or debarre any of his Parishioners from the holy Communion, vpon light and friuolous causes, not warrantable by Law, arising rather of malice conceyued against the party, then otherwise?

11 Item, whether is the Minister resident vpon his benefice? by whom is the cure serued, the fruits receyued, and the people taught in his absence? Non residence of the Minister.

12 Item, whether is your Minister suspected, reported, or known to haue obtayned his benefice or spirituall promotion by any symoniacall compact, directly or indirectly? Symony.

13 Item, whether any Minister not lawfully authorized, doth preach or expound the holy scriptures, or read diuine seruice within your sayd parish, or any Curate serue without assignation or licence from the Ordinary vnder his hand and seale, and what bee their names, or his name that so doeth? Curates and Preachers not licensed.

14 Item, whether doth your Minister or Preacher in their Sermons, giue vnto his Maiesty his lawfull Title, as in his iust stile, and commend his Highnesse, the Quenes Maiesty and their royall issue, and the rest of the Estates and Communalty of this Land in their prayers to God, so often as they read any publike prayers, or preach any Sermon? Prayer for his Maiesty.

15 Item, whether doeth your Minister admit any to the holy Communion, that are knowne to be notorious offenders, either by Adultery, Fornication, or any other kind of incontinency and lust, or that haue done open wrong to his neyghbour, without due penance first done before the congregation, or reconciliation made to the partyes wronged, or any strangers dwelling out of your parish or chappelry? Notorious offenders Cõmunicats.

16 Item, whether doth your Minister aduisedly maintayne or affirme any doctrine directly contrary or repugnant to the articles of Christian fayth and Religion, confirmed and published anno Domini, 1562. Maynteynance of false doctryne.

17 Item, whether haue you had any monthly sermons in your parish church or no, and whether are the Homilies read when there is no sermon, and whether your Minister bee a Preacher allowed, or no? and if a Preacher allowed, whether hee doeth preach euery Sunday in the yere once? and if no Preacher, whether hee procureth monethly Sermons? Monethly Sermons and homilies, and Sermons euery Sunday in the yeere, or monethly Sermons.

18 Item, whether is there any in your parish, that impugne or speake against the gouernment of the Church of England, the forme of consecrating Arch-bishoppes, Bishops, and ordering of Ministers?

19 Item, doth any of the Parsons, Vicars, Curates, stipendary Preachers or Lecturers within your parish, preach or expound

the same, or administer the holy & blessed sacraments in priuate houses, or appoynt publike or priuate fasts or prophesies, or do exercise without authority, or bee present at the same, or doe hold any priuate conuenticles or meetings.

Ministers apparel & conuersation.

20 Item, whether your Parson, Vicar, stipendary Lecturer, or Curate doe weare in their iournies clokes with sleeues, commonly called Gyttes clokes, without gards, welts, long buttons or cuts, and do weare coats or cassocks, and whether the rest of their apparel be modest; and whether they be of sober conuersation, & die honest studies and exercises, being no incontinent persons, nor giuen to drunkennesse, idlenesse, hunters, haunters of Tauerns or Alehouses, or suspected places, common Dicers, tablers, carders, swearers, or otherwise giue any way euill examples of life?

Forsaking the calling of the Ministery.

21 Item, whether any Parson, Vicar or Curate, or any other person within your parish being heretofore admitted a Deacon, or minister, do forsake his calling, and afterwards doe die himselfe as a lay man in his course of life.

Recusats excōmunicated.

22 Item, whether your Parson, Vicar or Curate doe euery three moneths solemnly denounce all Recusants within your parish publikely at seruice time vpon the Sunday, to stand excommunicated, & doth he his diligence to conferre with such Recusants, & doth he labour diligently from time to time to reforme them frō their errors?

Pluralityes.

23 Item, whether hath your Parson or Vicar any more spirituall promotions then one? how many, and in what countrey be they, how far distant, and what be their names?

Perambulation.

24 Item, whether your Parson, Vicar or Curate doth goe the perambulation of the circuit of your parish, with the parish clark, the Church-wardens, & certaine of the substantiall men of the parish, in the dayes of Rogation, according to the Iniunctions?

TITVL. III.

Articles concerning the Church.

Bookes in the Church

25 FIrst, whether you haue in your church, chappell or oratory, the booke of common prayer by ỳ Kings maiesty confirmed, the Bible of the largest volume, the Homilies, first & second Tome, M. Iewels Reply and Apology, the Constitutions & Canons ecclesiastical, set forth in the Conuocation, anno 1603. and other books by the lawes and statutes of this Realme required, a decent Communion Table with cloth and couer, a Communion Cup, a Font for Baptisme, a decent large Surplesse, and a coffer with locks and keyes for the Register booke? and whether be the ten Commaun-

dements

pellents placed in the East end of your church, chappel, or chancell? Decayes of the church or church-yard.

26 Item, whether is your parish church and church-yard in good and sufficient reparations, and well and orderly kept.

27 Item, whether be Godfathers & Godmothers admitted & allowed in the administration of Baptisme in your parish church: and whether any be baptized without godfathers or godmothers? Godfathers and Godmothers used in Baptisme.

28 Item, whether is your church vncouered, prophaned, & conuerted to any other vse, then for the seruice of God, Common prayer, and exercise of Religion, and by whose fault is it so abused, and not conuenientlie decked, but defaced? Churches prophaned.

29 Item, whether your church be a parsonage, vicaredge, impropriation or donatiue: whether serued by the incumbent, or by a Curate, and of what degree or quality is he: if it be boyd, who doth gather the fruites thereof? Register booke.

30 Item, whether is the register of all weddings, christnings, and burials within your parish duely kept, according to the Iniunctions in that behalfe? A Terrier of glebe land.

31 Item, whether your Parson or Vicar caused a Terrier to be made of the glebe lands, and other possessions & edifices belonging to his church, that the same may be deliuered accordingly to the Ordinary?

TITVL. IIII.

Articles concerning Church-wardens and Side-men.

32 FIrst, whether be the Church-wardens & sworne men diligent and carefull in the execution of their office, to see decency and comlinesse obserued in the church in time of common prayer, & administration of the Sacraments, & that euery parishioner behaue himselfe orderly & soberly then in the church, without disturbance of the Minister or Preacher, and do euery yere make their accounts to the Minister & parishioners, and what they haue particularly bestowed vpon the church? Care of Church-wardens.

33 Item, whether haue they retayned to their vse, any Legacies or bequests giuen to the church, or other godly vses, without due imployment therof: and whether you haue any colledges for the poore of your parish? Godly Legacies.

34 Item, whether haue the Church-wardens within your parish receyued & taken according to the Statute, Eliz. 10. the penalty imposed vpon euery person which absenteth himselfe from prayers vpon Sabbath dayes & holy dayes, and conuerted the same to the vse of the poore, and whether do the Gouernment their duties in assisting The forfeyture of twelue pence.

[illegible] in the church, and pertaining their offices belonging to the Clarke?

35 Item, whether your parish Clarke be xxi. yeres of age at the least? & whether he can read the first Lesson, the Epistle & Psalmes, truly answer to the Suffrages, and do his duty in the church, in keeping the ornaments of the same decent, cleane and comely, and bee of honest life, and modest conversation?

TITVL. V.

Articles concerning the Parsonage and Vicaredge houses.

Dilapidation of Parsonage houses.

36 First, whether be the houses & edifices belonging to any Parsonage or Rectory, well and sufficiently repayred, and whether any of them be ruinated, wasted, & dilapidated, and by whose default?

Decayes of Chauncels.

37 Item, whether be any of the chauncels of the said churches ruinated, & by whose default have they continued so decayed?

TITVL. VI.

Articles concerning Matrimony.

Mariages within the Leviticall degrees.

38 First, whether there be any y have maried within the degrees of affinity of consanguinity, by the lawes of God forbidden?

Marriage in private houses.

39 Item, whether hath any mariage bin secretly celebrated and solemnized within any private house since the xx of March 1601. the banes being not three severall Sundayes or holy dayes in the time of divine service, asked?

Married persons living apart without divorce.

40 Item, whether there be any persons coupled together in lawfull matrimony, that do keepe apart, and live asunder without lawfull divorce?

Marriage without Banes.

41 Item, whether any persons have without licence bin maried within your parish, without banes of matrimony first thrice published in the church, & who were present at such mariages, and what minister maried them?

TITVL. VII.

Articles concerning Legacies and bequests, given to godly vses.

Legacies given to godly vses.

42 First, whether be there any legacies given in the last will and testament of any person deceased, out of his moueable goods, to the vse of the poore, or to the reparation of the church, or to either of the Vniuersities, Cambridge & Oxford, schooles of learning, Colledges for increase of learned knowledge, or to any other charitable [illegible] and vnto whom were they given?

Item, what Legacies & bequests given to the vse aforesaid, have

hath beene paid by the Executor of the Testator deceased, and in whose possession be they now remaining?

TITVL. VIII.

Articles concerning the parishioners, and others of the laity.

44 FIrst, whether do any prophane the Sabboth day by vnlawfull games, by piping, dauncing, playe playes, reuelling at Alebenryes, drinking and tippling in time of common prayer, or by working vpon the Sabboth dayes and holy dayes, since the xx. day of March, 1601. and what be their names that do so prophane the same? Prophaning the Sabboth.

45 Item, whether be there any within your parish commonly known, reported or suspected to be blasphemers of Gods holy name, common drunkards, adulterers, fornicators, incestuous persons, & such as do prostitute to filthinesse & lust their children and seruants for their owne lucre & gayne, to the great offence of God, and such as be christianly affected? or any that haue committed adultery, incest, fornication or bawdery, or commonly reputed for persons of that quality, since therr. day of March 1601. or be common scolds, brawlers, or contentious and vncharitable persons amongst their neyghbours? Adultery fornicatio and incest, &c.

46 Item, whether there be any within your parish, that conceale the filthinesse of adulterers or adulteresses, & connay them away before they doe penance, or make satisfaction to the congregation for that their sin, or doe, or haue harbored any such incestuous persons, adulterers or fornicators? Concealing of adultery without penance performed.

47 Item, whether there be any which administer the goods of any person deceased, without lawfull authority, and before he hath proued the will & testament of the party deceased, or hath obtained commission from the Ordinary, to dispose of, and administer his said moueable goods? Administring goods without authority

48 Item, whether bee there any moueable goods of any person deceased, not lawfully administred, or any y last wills & testaments of any Testators deceased within your parish, not proued, according to the lawes and statutes of this realme in that behalfe? Administration not graunted, and wills not proued.

49 Item, whether be there any persons within your hearing, or to your knowledge, since the twentieth of March, 1601. which haue reuiled the Sacraments, and the Ministers of Gods word, calling them by reprochfull termes, dumbe dogs, Baals priests, or vsed any such contumelious words against them, or spoken against their mariages? Abuse of Ministers and Sacraments

Children let to bee baptized.

Giuing vvhanks after child-birth.

Loytring in the Church-yard.

Brawling in the Church-yard.

Not sending their children to be catechized.

Administratiō of sacramēts in priuate houses.

Vsury.

Lay men executing the Ministers office.

Excommunicate persons.

Concealing of sin

[illegible] dwelling within your [illegible] villy, diuorced & lat the [illegible] of any child [illegible] in or out of wed-lock? and what children [illegible] haue vsed vnbaptized to your knowledge?

51 Item, whether there be any [illegible] as haue beene vnlawfully [illegible] from [illegible] giuen thanks to God publikely in matronly manner in the church, after the recouery of their strength, & performance by Gods mercy from that great perill, and who haue refused or neglected so to doe?

52 Item, whether there be any within your parish, that in the time of diuine seruice or sermon do vse to loyter, walk or stand idle in the churchyard, or to talk or walk in the church, & what be their names?

53 Item, whether hath any person since the xx. day of March, 1601. quarrelled, chid, or brawled in any church or churchyard, or committed any disturbance thereby, giuing words, blowes, or other offences punishable by the law?

54 Item, whether doe any forbeare, or refuse to send their children to be catechized by the minister vpon Sabboth dayes and holy dayes, and what be their names?

55 Item, whether any person hath procured either of the sacraments of Baptisme or the Lords supper to be administred in their priuate houses, and vpon what cause were they so administred?

56 Item, whether be there any Vsurers that take any summe of money, though it be but two shillings in the pound, or lesser by the yere for the loane thereof? declare their names, and maner of their said vsury, and with whom.

57 Item, whether doth any lay man read publikely in your parish church or chappel publike prayer, and intrude himselfe into the ministers office?

58 Item, whether there be any in your parish that bee excommunicate persons, publikely denounced, that notwithstanding intrude themselues into your parish church, or repaire to any other church in time of common prayer, to the disturbance thereof, and the contempt of ecclesiasticall iurisdiction?

59 Item, whether since the xx. day of March 1601. hath any adultery, fornication, or incest, or any other offence committed within your parish, bin concealed for fauour, feare, or any other respect, by the Church-wardens or Side-men, or Quest-men, or by any other person, to the incouraging of the offender in his wickednes, offence of God, and slaunder of ecclesiasticall iurisdiction?

60 Item, do you know any within your parish that haue eaten flesh in the time of Lent, or other dayes prohibited, contrary to the Lawes in that case prouided? Flesh.

61 Item, whether there hath bin contention in your church for pewes, and betweene whom, and in what maner and sort? Pewes.

62 Item, whether be there any in your parish, that do receyue the holy Communion in any other church or chappell then their owne, & whether any in your parish do christen their children out of their owne parish Church, or any that doe christen their children not knowne where, nor by whom? & declare the names of all such as do offend in the premises. Receiuing the Communion out of their parish, & christening children.

63 Item, whether there be any person or persons, known or be vehemently suspected to haue written, printed, or by any meanes published or dispersed, or otherwise haue, or to haue had to his, or to their vse or keeping, any slanderous or schismaticall bookes, or seditious libels, or other bookes that impeach the booke of Common prayer, or the Religion or ecclesiasticall gouernment established, or the rites and ceremonyes of the church, or any part thereof in this realme, or doth impeach the credit or state of any ecclesiasticall person or gouernour, by word or deed? Seditious bookes & libels.

64 Item, whether any say, or haue heard Masse within your parish, or beare the same, or any other seruice forbidden? whether doe you know any popish priests, Seminaries, Iesuites, or runnagate persons, that do minister the Sacraments otherwise then they are now vsed, or resort to any house in your parish to be relieued by any in your parish? declare their names, & to whose houses they resort, and by whome they are any way relieued, as you know, or haue heard publikely reported. Masse, Seminary priests & Iesuites, &c.

TITVL. IX.

Articles concerning ecclesiasticall offices.

65 FIrst, whether any offences being heretofore presented, are suppressed, vnpunished, or the offenders dismissed without any due correction? & what are those offences, and by whose default are they vnpunished, and what are the offenders names? Concealing of offences, & letting them goe vnpunished.

66 Item, what penance or punishment inioyned by any ecclesiasticall Iudge, hath beene commuted or changed into a pecuniary mulct or summe of money, & who so commuted the same, and how hath the same beene imployed? Comutation of penance. Abuses in

67 Item, whether any Apparator, Messenger, or Sumnioner, vnder colour & pretence of their seuerall authorities or conditions, Apparators and

haue sumoners

plaint cited or summoned any person vnlawfully, or for ꝑ encreasing of his offence or sin, or for the auoyding of punishment in the offender, hath taken any reward or gift, or otherwise dealt corruptly, and who they be that haue so done?

Corruption in ecclesiasticall Iudges, and Registers

68 Item, whether any officers exercising ecclesiasticall iurisdiction, their Registers or Deputies, haue receyued money for exhibiting Billes, Verdicts, or Presentments, or other fees then such as haue bin vsuall, & of custome, since ꝑ first yere of Quene Elizabeths raigne? and what hath bene so receyued, & by whom? and whether any presentmẽts by them or any of them haue bin suppressed, withdrawen, or not effectually proceded in, whereby sin hath not bene duely corrected as it ought to be, to the honour of God, and according to the lawes ecclesiasticall? and whether doe you know any person ordered by law to doe penance, or excommunicate for not doing the same, that doth still so continue barefoomed and wrapped &c?

Tables of Fees due to ecclesiastical offices.

69 Item, whether Deanes Rurall, Registers, & other persons exercising ecclesiasticall iurisdiction, haue both within their offices where their Records are kept, and in places of Iudgement where Courts are holden, a Table of all fees due to them, set vp, & remayning in an open place, where any man may see, and read the same?

Deanes rurall.

70 Item, whether hath your Deanes Rurall meddled with any aduulterers, incestuous persons, clandestine mariages, or taken vpon them to proue the testaments of Knights, Esquires or Ministers, or of any other persons departed, ꝑ Inuentory of whose goods surmounted the summe of forty pounds? and whether hath any of the sayd Deanes winked at any offender, commuted his penance, or dispensed with him for doing the same? and what summes of money haue they taken of any offender, and what bee their names? And whether do you know any Executors or Administrators, that haue not inserted in their Inuentories, & valued such Leases for .j. yere or more, of which any decedent dyed possessed? and whether do you know, beleeue, or haue heard, that your Deane Rurall worked at the same, and was therewith contented for his owne priuate commodity?

TITVL. X.

Articles concerning Schoolemasters, Phisicions, Surgeons and Curates.

Schoolemasters vnlicensed

71 Item, whether is there any Schoolemaster within your parish, that teacheth publikely or priuately, not licensed

by

by the Ordinary, the Bishop of this Diocese, or his Chancelor?

72 Item, whether doth any practise Phisike or Surgery, contrary to the statutes of this realme, being not lawfully licensed, or created Doctor in that faculty, by grace, in either of the Universityes of this Realme? Phisicions and Surgeons

73 Item, whether doth any serue the cure of any parish church, without lawfull admission to holy orders, & licence of the Bishop, or his Chancelor to read prayers, and administer the Sacraments in your sayd Church? Curates not licensed.

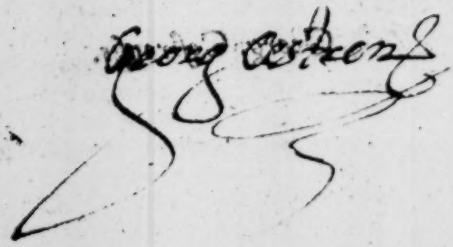
74 Item, whether doth the Schoolemaster that teacheth within your parish, repaire to the church in time of common prayer, receiue the blessed sacrament, instruct & teach his schollers in the principles of true Religion: or teach any children, whose parents be a let & hinderance, that the sayd children come not to church, to heare common prayer? Schoolemasters not repairing to Church.

75 Item, whether doeth any Schoolemaster, vnder pretence of catechizing his schollers, keepe any publike Lectures in diuinity, in their priuate schooles? and who resort thereto? Schoolemasters.

76 Item, whether doe your Schoolemasters teach, or are they suspected to teach any of their schollers in Popery, Superstition, disobedience, or contempt of the trueth and christian Religion established within this Realme, or to contemne the orders ecclesiasticall, now established? Schoolemasters.

FINIS.

Georg. Cestrensis.



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